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Prosecutors file multiple charges against alleged southside gang members

Charges include Criminal Gang Activity and Corrupt Business Influence

(Indianapolis, Ind.) Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry announced today that multiple charges have been filed against the alleged members of two southside gangs. Both the "Problem Child Gang" and the "Fountain Square Boyz" operate in and around the Fountain Square neighborhood on the city's southside.

The charges filed against eight of the alleged Problem Child Gang members range from B Felonies to A Misdemeanors, and include six counts of Criminal Gang Activity. They also are charged with Corrupt Business Influence, which marks the second time in MCPO's history that it has utilized the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) statute against gang members.

As set forth in the probable cause affidavit, police began investigating the Problem Child Gang, or PCG, in April 2012. During the course of the investigation, the PCG is alleged to be responsible for batteries, robberies, gun crimes, narcotics sales, and graffiti. The probable cause affidavit also details that as a condition of membership or continued membership, the gang requires its members to commit felonies, acts that would be considered felonies if committed by an adult, and/or the act of battery. The probable cause affidavit outlines how neighbors reported to police that the alleged gang members were assaulting citizens unprovoked, circling around their victims and physically assaulting them.

Five of the eight alleged gang members are 17 years old or younger; however, they are charged as adults.

"We have made it clear that our goal is to dismantle criminal gangs in Marion County," said Prosecutor Curry. "The crimes that are generally associated with gang activity undermine the safety and stability of our neighborhoods, ultimately threatening the quality of life in our entire community. Our office is committed to fighting gangs to the fullest extent, which is why we continue to employ creative prosecution strategies, such as the state's RICO statute, in this effort."

Charges against the Fountain Square Boyz, or FSB, stemmed from a July 4 incident in Fountain Square where six alleged gang members were involved in a fight with other neighborhood teens. As set forth in the probable cause affidavit, the alleged FSB members "jumped" the neighborhood teens because they believed they were Problem Child Gang members, with whom the FSB has had an ongoing feud. The probable cause also details that the FSB is a known criminal gang on the city's

south side, and they are alleged to have committed batteries and intimidation of members of the community.

The six alleged FSB gang members are charged with one count of Aggravated Battery (Class B Felony), two counts of Battery (Class C Felony) and one count of Criminal Gang Activity (Class D Felony).

In June 2011, Prosecutor Curry and representatives from the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department announced the takedown of the Pop it Off Boyz, a violent eastside criminal street gang. Prosecutors filed a total of 47 charges, ranging from A Felonies to B Misdemeanors. The gang members received sentences ranging from one year of probation to 20 years in the Department of Correction with their combined sentences totaling more than 67 years. The takedown also resulted in development of evidence leading to charges against gang member Anthony Shockley for the alleged murder of Clayton Battice on June 5, 2011. Shockley's murder trial is slated to begin later this year.